



# Sparking Interest in Robotics for Women

Vandana Anand (CS), Joseph Turcotte (CS), Kassidy Utheim (ME), and Carol Wang (CS)

Advisors: Professor Joseph Beck (CS) and Professor Robert Traver (US)

PLA: Carolyn Detora (ME)

## Problem

Women are underrepresented in Robotics Engineering (RBE)

## Solution

Developed a presentation and a hands-on activity to promote interest among middle school girls.



## Jitterbug Activity

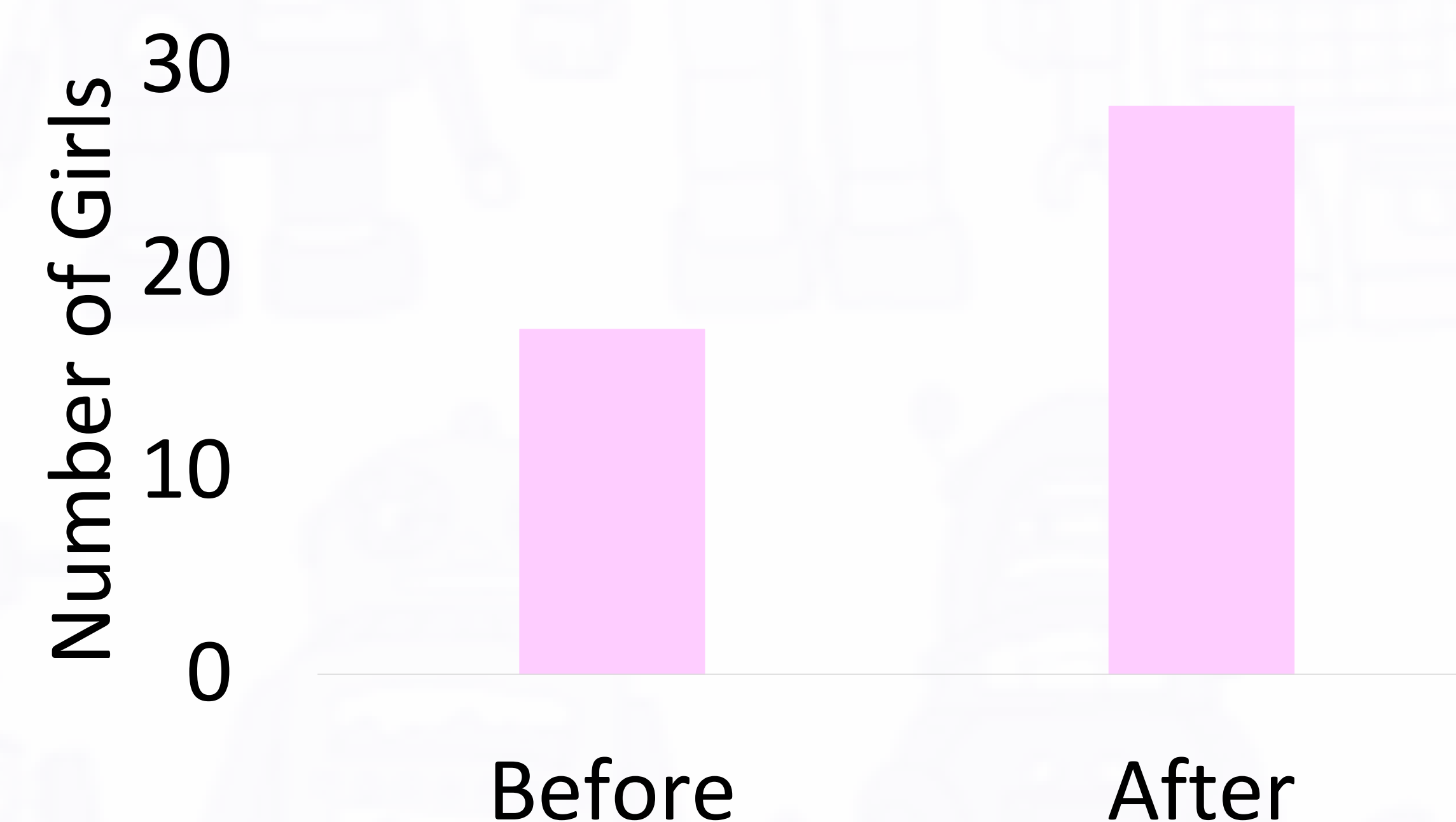
- Short intro presentation about RBE
- The Jitterbug is a “dancing” robot
- Off-center motor causes vibration
- Kids built simple circuit with motor

## Assessment

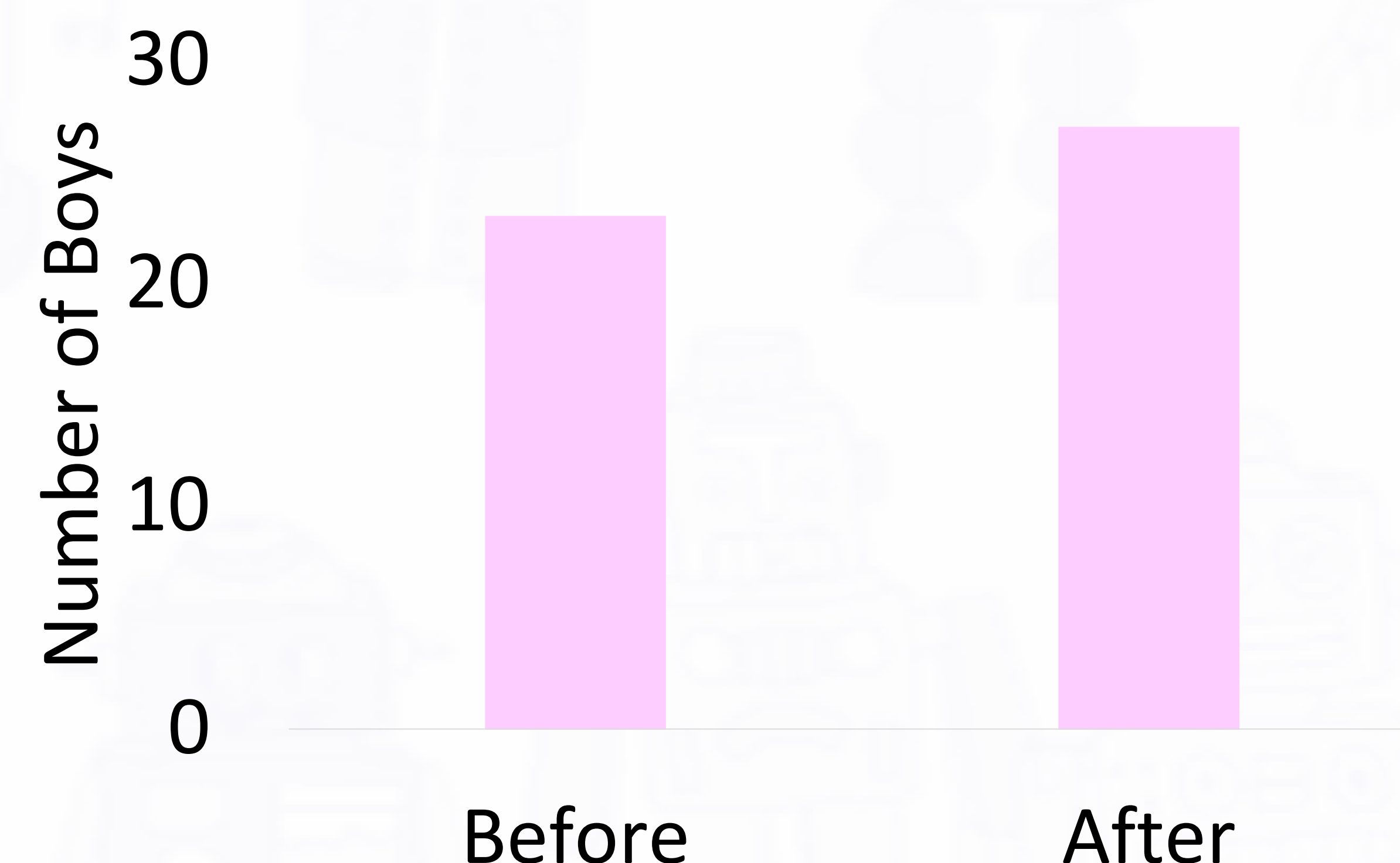
- Presented to 29 girls and 28 boys
- Collected pre/post survey data
- Compared responses from groups

## Data

Number of Girls Interested in RBE Before and After the Event



Number of Boys Interested in RBE Before and After the Event



## Conclusions

- Girls' interest increased
- Overall interest increased
- Kids enjoyed doing the activity
- Event was successful

## Acknowledgements

Julia Sorcinelli, Suzanne M Sontgerath,  
Women in Robotics Engineering,  
Engineering Ambassadors

## References

- Committee, O. P. U. O. E. (2008). Changing the Conversation : Messages for Improving Public Understanding of Engineering. Washington, US: National Academies Press. Retrieved from <http://www.ebrary.com>
- Demetry, C., Hubelbank, J. Blaisdell, S. L., Sontgerath, S., Nicholson, M.E., Rosenthal, E., & Quinn, P. (2009). Supporting young women to enter engineering: Long-term effects of a middle school Engineering outreach program for girls. *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering*, 15(2), 119-142. doi:10.1615/JWomenMinorScienEng.v15.i2.20